BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-05 February 1st, 2013

- **British Columbia households spent $74,448 on average in 2011**
- **Average weekly wages in B.C. rose 0.8% in November**
- **Sales at food services and drinking places edged up 0.6% in November**

Household Spending

- **Spending by households in British Columbia averaged $74,448 in 2011, slightly more than the national average of $73,457.** Ontario ($77,554) and Alberta ($87,267) were the only provinces where household expenditures were higher than those in B.C.

Shelter took the biggest bite ($12,990) out of the household budget in B.C., followed by personal tax bills ($12,100). Transportation ($8,640), food ($7,120) and recreation ($3,900) were the other major expenditure items. British Columbians spent less ($120, net, compared to $166 nationally) on games of chance than other Canadians, but were more generous with gifts of money and contributions to charity ($1,872 compared to $1,673). Spending on education was higher here ($1,411) than in any other province except Ontario ($1,575), and B.C. households also paid more for health care ($2,511) than residents of any other province except Quebec ($2,585).

For Canadian households in the top income quintile, personal taxes accounted for the biggest share (28%) of total household spending while shelter (16%) and food (8%) took a smaller portion from the household wallet. Conversely, among households with the lowest incomes, taxes represented just one percent of total spending, while far more of the household budget was allocated to shelter (32%) and food (14%). Together, food, clothing and shelter ate up 51% of the total household budget for these households, compared to 29% for those in the highest income quintile. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Food services and drinking places in British Columbia saw sales edge up 0.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) to $658 million in November.** Nationally, receipts rose 1.1%, as full-service restaurants (+1.7%), limited-service eating places (+0.7%), and special food services (+1.2%) all saw sales increase. Sales at drinking places (–0.5%) contracted for the second month in a row. Receipts were up in every province, with Quebec (+1.6%) recording the largest increase.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Wages

- **Average weekly payroll earnings in British Columbia rose 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Employees earned $878.42 weekly, on average, an increase of $7.03.

Nationally, average weekly earnings rose to $910.77 (+0.5%). Nova Scotia (+2.1%) recorded the largest increase, while earnings rose moderately in Quebec (+1.0%) and Ontario (+0.8%). Alberta (–0.9%), which has the highest weekly average earnings in the country ($1,277.31), was the only province to record a decline.

Earnings were up in all but four sectors, with the largest dip recorded in public administration (–0.6%, falling $6.72). Earnings in management of companies and enterprises saw the sharpest increase (+5.2%, up $62.97), with weekly wages rising to $1,271.04.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Income

- **There were 29,535 tax filers in British Columbia who were in the top one percent (*taxable income of $201,400 or greater, current dollars*) of tax filers in Canada, up from 28,800 in 2009.** Males accounted for 78.4% of the total, women for 21.6%. The median income earned by the top one percent was $280,500, with average (mean) income at $441,000. The share of income earned by tax filers in the top one percent edged up to 9.9%, entirely due to a rise in the

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Did you know...

Just 9% of families in British Columbia strongly agree that their family meets around the kitchen table to update each other on schedules, activities and to look at pictures.

Source: Ipsos-Reid Canada

male share of income from 7.6% to 8.1%, while the female share of income remained constant at 1.8%. On average, the top one percent of earners paid $137,700 in federal and provincial income taxes, accounting for 21.2% of income taxes paid in the province.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadians required an annual income of $201,400 (*current dollars*) to be considered in the top one percent of tax filers in 2010.** There were 254,730 tax filers in Canada whose earnings placed them in the top one percent, with males accounting for 79.1% of the total, and females accounting for 20.9%. In the top one percent, 82.7% of filers were married or common-law, in comparison to 56.9% of the remaining 99%. The average annual income earned by the top one percent was $429,600, with average federal and provincial income taxes paid totalling $142,900. Nationally, the share of total income earned by the top one percent was slightly higher (10.6%) than in BC (9.9%), with males (8.7%) earning a much larger share than females (1.9%). The disparity was much less pronounced in the remaining 99%, where the share of income earned by males was 49.9%, and 39.5% for females. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **In the period between 2007 and 2010, food insecurity (*moderate or severe*) among First Nations (27.7%) and Métis (19.6%) populations (*age 12 years and over, self-reported*) in British Columbia was notably higher than among non-Aboriginals (7.0%).** The rate of those suffering high blood pressure, heart disease, or effects of stroke was markedly lower among First Nations (10.5%) and Métis (9.1%) compared to non-Aboriginals (17.0%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **National GDP inched up 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted, 2007 chained dollars*) in November, as activity in both the goods-producing (+0.6%) and services-producing (+0.1%) industries increased.** GDP in the manufacturing industry rose 0.7% following three consecutive months of decline. Mining, quarrying, and oil & gas extraction (+0.8%), utilities (+1.4%), and agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting (+0.4%) industries all saw increases, while construction was unchanged (-0.0%).

  On the services-producing side, activity was fairly flat (+0.1%), with information and cultural industries, professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance and public administration all recording virtually no change. Retail (+0.6%) and wholesale (+0.7%) trade continued to expand, while activity in finance & insurance (-0.1%) and administrative & support, waste management & remediation services (-0.1%) slowed.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices were slightly higher (+0.2%) this December than in the same month of 2011.** An 8.7% year-over-year rise in the price of lumber and other wood products was the largest contributor to the overall increase. Prices for fruits, vegetables, feeds & other food products (+3.3%), tobacco & tobacco products (+2.8%) and meat, fish & dairy products (+1.1%) also exerted inflationary pressure.

  A decline in manufacturer prices for motor vehicles (-1.6%), chemicals & chemical products (-0.5%), and pulp & paper products (-2.0%) dampened the overall increase

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) fell 8.0% in December, marking the tenth consecutive month of year-over-year declines.** Downward pressure on the RMPI was due primarily to a drop in prices for mineral fuels (-17.6%). Excluding mineral fuel prices, the RMPI increased 1.4% in December.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2012	3,297	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2012	2,742	0.2
Retail Sales - Nov 2012	5,093	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.4	1.1
Vancouver	0.5	1.3
Victoria	0.2	1.0
Canada	0.8	1.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2012	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	1.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.6	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,313.5	0.1
Unemployed - BC	158.1	-4.2
		Nov 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	6.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 30/2013	Feb 1/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.14
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 30/2013	Feb 1/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0033	0.9971
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9985	1.0009
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2012	one year ago
BC	868.09	1.5
Canada	873.15	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, January 2013

To Release next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor
- Labour Force Statistics, January 2013
- Earnings & Employment Trends, January 2013

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